

South Hadley, is a past president of the Massachusetts Library Association, and served as a delegate to the 1991 White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services.

While an accomplished professional, Connie has also been extremely active in community organizations, serving, at various times, as a president of A Better Chance for Education, chair of Saint Patrick's Parish Council, and president of the South Hadley Women's Club. In recognition of her service she has been awarded the Jaycees Distinguished Service Award, the Lions Club Citizen of the Year Award, and the Joseph W. Long Citizenship Award. And these are just a few highlights of the recognition of Connie's distinguished service to the Pioneer Valley.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me in wishing Connie Clancy well as she reflects on and celebrates 35 years with the South Hadley Public Library, as well as wishing her continued success and happiness in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO QUEENS BOROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. THOMAS J. MANTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 1996

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special organization as it celebrates 100 years of service to the residents of my district in the Queens Borough of New York City: The Queens Borough Public Library. In keeping with the library's centennial theme, "Lighting the Way," a year-long array of events commemorating this historic occasion is now underway at the Central Library in Jamaica, Queens, and at each of the library's 63 branches located throughout the borough.

The official celebration began on March 19, with Charter Day programs presented throughout the Queens Library system. Charter Day is the anniversary of the signing of the Queens Library charter in 1896 by New York State Librarian Melvil Dewey, the architect of the familiar "Dewey Decimal System."

Mr. Speaker, the Queens Library provides a tremendous service to the 2 million residents of Queens, virtually all of whom live within walking distance of a library branch. It provides more than 18,000 cultural, educational, informational and social programs for Queens' residents. These include access to computerized data bases of social services and job listings, vocational counseling, classes in everything from coping skills to parenting, and acculturation for new immigrants in dozens of the languages spoken in Queens. After-school latchkey programs assist 35,000 Queens children each year to develop good homework habits and learn how to use a library. The library's literacy programs reach thousands more.

Interwoven with all these are the library's technology programs, putting the power of information technology in the hands of people who would otherwise be denied access on economic grounds. According to the department of Commerce, less than 8 percent of central city homes in the northeast have computers with modems.

Mr. Speaker, with all these services, the Queens Library also holds a very prestigious

place among U.S. public libraries: It has the largest circulation of any library in our Nation, and the highest per capita use of New York City's three library systems.

The Queens Library has favorable ratings that most of us in the political community envy. User surveys reveal that almost 90 percent of borough residents have a favorable opinion of the library and what it does for them. More than 60 percent of Queens children visit a Queens Library facility each year. Over 175,000 borough residents turned out for centennial events last month.

Mr. Speaker, the Queens Library is a very special part of Queens as it touches more people than any other Queens service institution. I know my colleagues join me in paying tribute to the Queens Library today by wishing it a most sincere Happy Birthday and many more to come.

TRIBUTE TO RECIPIENTS OF THE HONOR IMMIGRANT AMERICANS DAY AWARDS

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 1996

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to 11 remarkable individuals from the 11th District of Virginia who were honored at the Honor Immigrant Americans Day Awards Banquet on May 4, 1996 in Rosslyn, VA. The banquet, hosted by the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Organization of Chinese Americans [OCA], recognized the enormous contributions which these first generation immigrants have made to our community.

The OCA bestowed the Corporate Award on five of the honorees. These persons received the award for their outstanding achievements in both the work place and in their communities.

Ms. Ruth K. Barham, who works for the Signet Banking Corp., was born in Kobe, Japan. She moved to the United States with her husband in 1969. Ms. Barham joined Signet Banking in 1988 and is currently an administrative assistant in the personal trust division of the Washington metro region.

Ms. ATI Suradja-Shuey, who also works for the Signet Banking Corp. is a native of Indonesia. She came to the United States in 1950, when her father was posted in the Embassy of Indonesia. Ms. Suradja-Shuey joined Signet Banking in 1985 and now acts as an administrative assistant for the private banking division for the metro Washington region.

Mr. Ebrahim (Abe) Bibizadeh came to the United States in 1976 on a scholarship from his native country of Iran. Although the scholarship was discontinued after 3 years, he worked a number of odd jobs until he was able to earn his bachelor of science degree from the Virginia Military Institute. After his graduation, Mr. Bibizadeh began working for Virginia Power as an associate engineer/service representative where he is still an employee. He has also served as a coordinator of the United Way Campaign in Springfield VA, as a member of the Springfield Safety Committee, and is an active member of the Virginia Power's Speakers Bureau. In 1990, Mr. Bibizadeh realized a life-long dream when he started his own travel agency. Both he and

his wife became naturalized U.S. citizens in 1995.

Mr. Hai NamLy immigrated to the United States from Vietnam in 1992. He began working with BTG as a warehouse receiving clerk. An outstanding employee who focuses on quality work, Mr. Ly was recently promoted to the position of netscape administrator for BTG technology systems where he is responsible for fulfilling orders for one of BTG's most important strategic partners.

Mr. Jose Diaz, who works for Walcoff and Associates, Inc., immigrated to the United States from Cuba and earned a bachelor of science degree from Georgetown University in 1992. His career at Walcoff is focused on immigrant outreach and assistance. Mr. Diaz recently enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve in order to give something back to the United States for providing him with educational and career opportunities.

Six of the honorees received the At-Large Award for their outstanding life-long achievements in the community.

Dr. Jorge O. Arnoldson emigrated from Cuba and has practiced pediatric medicine in Fairfax County for over 20 years. He has been a strong supporter and participating member of the Medical Care for Children Partnership [MCCP], providing medical care to children of the working poor. Dr. Arnoldson is a hero to his patients and a genuine hero to the MCCP and his community.

Mr. Phan Nguyen Ngoc Hung is a refugee from Vietnam and is now a local young professional. As one who personally experienced the frustrations of living and working in a totally foreign society, Mr. Hung has undertaken initiatives to help recent immigrants assimilate into American society. He now acts as a "Big Brother" to many refugee youths.

Ms. Sarah K. Joaquin came to the United States from the Philippines in 1960 and has influenced many men and women who have pursued careers in drama, broadcasting, writing, and the arts. She has been a teacher, author and a theatrical producer. Ms. Joaquin has staged plays and special events for the Philippine Embassy and co-authored "Bayan Ko, Bumangon Ka," a musical play presented at the Kennedy Center.

Ms. Air Paukkunen Oulette was born in Finland and registered to vote the day she became an American citizen. Ms. Roulette has been a lifelong volunteer and is a political activist who has made a difference in people's lives and the community she serves. She has worked on numerous political campaigns in Virginia and sits on the State Central Committee of the Democratic Party. Ms. Roulette also represents Providence District on the Community Action Advisory Board of Fairfax County, which advocates the needs of the working poor.

Mr. Michael M. Shen immigrated to the United States from China in 1953. He graduated from Columbia University and attended the Stevens Institute of Technology before joining the Department of Navy in 1963. He received the Civil Service Meritorious Award in 1986 upon his retirement from the Navy after 23 years. Mr. Shen started his own marine engineering consulting firm and in 1990, was awarded a patent for an invention for sealift ships. He is also an active volunteer adult leader in the Boy Scouts of America and received the Silver Beaver Award, the highest and most distinguished award for a volunteer adult leader.